



George Washington and Jefferson National Forests
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forest Service to Host Open House to Discuss Proposed Prescribed Burn in Page and Rockingham Counties

Harrisonburg, Va – The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, will host an Open House at the Shenandoah Town Hall in Shenandoah, Virginia on Wednesday September 25 from 7 – 8:30 p.m. This Open House will provide background information for the proposed Cub Run Prescribed Burn, which could take place during the spring of 2014. Attendees will have the opportunity to speak one-on-one with firefighting specialists, and to review maps of the proposed burn area.

The proposed Cub Run Prescribed Burn would encompass approximately 4,000 acres on Massanutten Mountain, including portions of Second Mountain, Third Mountain, and Fourth Mountain from Boone's Run to Pitt Springs Run. The goal of the prescribed burn would be to improve wildlife habitat, promote healthy forests, and help protect communities from potentially large, high-intensity wildfires. Project scoping information will be provided on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest's website at www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj for those who cannot attend the open house.

The George Washington and Jefferson National Forests are dependent on fire to remain healthy and to provide optimal habitat for a diversity of plants and animals. Wildlife populations such as white-tailed deer, black bears, turkey, quail, squirrels, eastern cottontails, and many migratory birds benefit from a forest openings and increased food and cover that flourish after a fire. Without periodic ground-level fires, shade-loving species, like red maple and white pine, outcompete oak and pine seedlings for available light and food. Without fire, a pine or oak-hickory forest becomes a different forest over time; one dominated by maples, white pines, and other species reducing critical habitat for many species.

For additional information, please contact the Lee Ranger District at 540 984-4101.

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